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Senate

The Senate met at 4 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, Ruler of all creation, each day seems to bring more bad news than good. We hear about floods, bombs, murders, disunity, pestilence, and anguish. In spite of bad news, we continue to look to You, our help in ages past and our hope for years to come.

Lord, today we pray for the many around our Nation and world who are suffering from the effects of poverty, experiencing incessant hunger. We pray also for those who don't have access to quality education and for the tens of thousands fleeing deplorable and dangerous conditions in their countries.

Sovereign God, intervene and help the hurting in our Nation and world by providing our lawmakers with the wisdom and courage to be instruments of Your glory.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The majority leader is recognized.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, we live in an incredibly dangerous

world. The number of threats facing our Nation is simply staggering. That is one reason both parties actually came together to pass the national defense authorization bill through both Chambers by very large bipartisan margins. In the Senate, it was 71 to 25; in the House, 269 to 151. A bipartisan committee then worked to merge both Chambers' bills into one.

Republicans on the committee supported that unified Defense bill. Democrats on the committee also supported that unified Defense bill. The House already passed the unified legislation, and we will vote on it here tomorrow.

Americans have every reason to expect that Democrats will vote again to support—not block—America's national defense authorization bill. And yet, at a time when the United States faces numerous conventional, cyber, and terror threats, the Obama administration is goading Democrats into opposing the very legislation that sets out defense policy and authorizes funds for our military.

Democrats just voted to pass America's national defense bill this summer. Now they might filibuster it? This is part of a pattern that should be worrying to all of us. Just consider what we have seen already. The Senate passed a bipartisan veterans funding bill out of the Committee on Appropriations. Democrats voted for and praised the bill at that time; then they filibustered it twice.

This really hasn't stopped, Madam President. These are serious times. It is time for Democrats to prove they can be serious as well.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING JANICE SHELTON

Mr. REID. Madam President, at about a quarter to eleven this morning, one of my friends passed away. Her name was Janice Shelton. She was a fixture in the Senate. She worked in the Senate for more than three decades, but the reason I feel so bad this afternoon is that Janice worked for me. Janice Shelton worked for me for 25 years. She was such a good person. She ran my office, and that is an understatement.

Janice was born in Virginia, in Warrenton. She graduated from Mt. Vernon High School in Alexandria and attended Northern Virginia Community College. She was married to Robert Shelton for 61 years. They have two daughters, Robin LeCroy and Laurie Nelson. They have eight grandchildren in total, two of whom I know well. Shelton Nelson worked for me. Well, I shouldn't say he worked for me. I got to know him very well. I read the papers every Sunday to find out how his football team had done. He was a huge offensive lineman. He weighed more than 300 pounds, all solid muscle. His brother Chris, who is 6 foot 4, was a stunningly good baseball pitcher, also at the college level. Rebecca and Holly worked in the Senate as Senate pages. And they have four great-grandchildren.

Janice started her career working with the Department of the Army. She worked in the Carter White House in the Office of Domestic Policy. She worked in the Reagan White House. She then moved to the Senate in 1981, working as an executive assistant. She worked for Paula Hawkins of Florida for 6 years and worked for Senator MIKULSKI for 1 year and then worked for me for 25 years. She left maybe less than 3 years ago and moved to North Carolina to be near her two daughters, one of whom now lives in Atlanta.

Janice spent her professional career creating order where chaos could easily have been. In my office everyone knew

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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